Post 3/21/67

# Letter

## *Guild and CIA*

The discovery that one program of the American Newspaper Guild—its International Affairs program—has received funds from certain foundations now linked with the CIA is cause for serious concern, but not for such a malicious slander of the entire organization as your editorial of Feb. 19 ("The Eager Victim").

To charge that the Guild has been "hungrily taking covert Government money" and perpetrating "moral imbecility" is a conclusion unsupported by your own news accounts.

That action by Guild officials to sever any even tenuous connection with the CIA will be taken has already been made crystal clear by the union's officers. That they relished a relationship as a "secret partner of secret government" is not at all substantiated by any news reports. It isn't true.

You have assumed that every Guild official was eagerly grubbing off the Government and betraying the membership. To state that the entire Guild "has been the willing accomplice to its own seduction" is unfounded and betrays your own dedication to accurate reporting.

You have branded the Guild as decadent and have hinted that it should desist—an outrageous reaction that impugns the motives of 32,000 Guild members across the country and in Canada who have strived hard for fair working conditions, equal opportunities and a high standard of ethics for your very business.

Applying your logic, *The Washington Post* has maintained an unclean relationship for 30 years by entering into agreements with Local 35 of the ANG. You might then conclude that this newspaper has been in cahoots with the CIA.

We both know that this is nonsense. Your attack on Mr. Perlik, who openly discussed the entire matter with reporters, was below the belt.

When an issue hits home, as this one has for both newspaper management and its employes, there is an impulse either to shove it under the rug or to over-react. In your zeal to assess the question you have over-reacted by flagrantly distorting the facts.

WILLIAM J. FARSON,
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ROBERT L. ASHER,
President, Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild.